DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 296 086 CE 050 279

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TITLE Use of Tape Recorders and Computers in Literacy Tutoring.
PUB DATE Jun 88
NOTE 4p.; Paper presented at the Laubach Literacy Action 1988 Biennial Conference (San Diego, CA, June 22-26, 1988).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Basic Education; Adult Literacy; *Computer Assisted Instruction; Computers; *Courseware; *Literacy Education; Tape Recorders; *Tape Recordings; Teaching Methods; *Tutoring

ABSTRACT

Tape recorders and computers can be useful in literacy tutoring in three situations. The situations are (1) as an aid in regular tutoring sessions, (2) as a supplement to provide drill and practice, and (3) as a management tool. Samples of these uses include tape recordings of reading assignments for students to take home and study; a computer program that teaches the alphabet, numerals, and the keyboard; and phonics computer programs. Although tape recorders are fairly inexpensive and therefore accessible, computers may only be available in schools, libraries, and so on. Used and new computer hardware can also be purchased. (A list of firms producing educational software is attached.) (YLB)

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USE OF TAPE RECORDERS AND COMPUTERS IN LITERACY TUTORING

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Why should we consider the use of tape recorders and computers in literacy tutoring? The obvious answer is because we hope to do a better job. It makes it easier for the instructor to teach and for the student to learn.

I'm going to tell you of my own experience and suggest some simple ways I have improved my own teaching.

Perhaps I should state my own credentials first. I am a retired college professor. In the 1960s I was Director of the Computer Center at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Presently I am a Laubach apprentice tutor trainer at the Horry County Literacy Council in South Carolina. At the moment I have three microcomputers: an Apple IIe, a Tandy TRS80 Model III, and a Tandy Color Computer 2. The Horry County Literacy Council has access to a number of Apple computers and has recently purchased a Tandy 1000EX for use with the LITMAS management program. Our church has an IbM PC-XT with which I am also familiar.

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F R Henderson

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)"

It seems to me that there are three situations where tape recorders and computers can be useful in literacy tutoring:

(1) as an aid in our regular tutoring sessions,
(2) as a supplement at home or at the library or wherever equipment is available, to provide drill and practise,
(3) as a management tool -- LITMAS for example.

I shall confine my remarks to the first two situations. If you are interested in LITMAS, there is another conference session devoted to LITMAS management.

Coming back to my own experience, I have recorded the reading assignments in the "Skillbooks" and in "More Stories" for my students to take home and to play along when they are studying their assignments. (If they don't have a tape recorder, I have loaned them one.) My students tell me that these recordings have helped them considerably.

I also have a program for my computer which teaches the alphabet, numerals, and the keyboard. Beginning students practise with this until they know the alphabet -- perhaps 15 minutes at each session.

Finally I have a "Phonics" program (Dorsett) which covers 32 lessons and which I use as a review after "Skillbooks 1&2". This takes 15-20 minutes per lesson.

I have a second program, "Phonics Can be Easy" (S.C.L.A.) which is much briefer and useful for tutors.

A little later, I shall demonstrate these programs and show you how they work.

Perhaps you are saying to yourself, "I don't have a tape recorder or a computer." Certainly these are problems.

The tape recorder is not a serious one since it is fairly inexpensive. I suggest one with a counter, similar to my Radio Shack CCR-81. These cost about $60. Tapes of 20 or 30 minutes cost around $1. I have two tape recorders and sometimes loan one to my students. It will take a little of your time to record the reading assignments, but I have found that it is really worthwhile. Incidentally, you should request permission to do this from New Readers Press since their material is copyrighted.

So far as computers are concerned, there are many available in schools, libraries, etc. You may be able to locate one near

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you where you can obtain permission to use it one or two evenings a week for tutoring.

If you want to get your own, I suggest that you look for a Computer Club near you; it is quite possible that its members can help you obtain some inexpensive used equipment. What kind of equipment you will need will depend on what software programs you want to run.

If you decide you want to purchase new equipment, again it is important to decide on your software first, and then get a computer which will run your software.

I have found that this Tandy Color Computer 2 connected to an old color TV works well for me. It cost $100., and the used TV cost another $100. The Phonics software I am using cost $120. The other software was free.

There is probably more educational software available for Apple computers than for others. However, Apple and IBM computers are more expensive than Tandy and others.

As to software, I can refer you to three recent publications containing reviews of software. There are other sources, of course, and I am attaching a list of about 60 firms which sell educational software. The three publications mentioned above are:

(1) Reviews of Reading and Writing Software for Volunteer Adult Literacy Programs by Christina M. Jagger
New Readers Press, Box 131, Syracuse, NY 13210
(2) Guide to Recommended Literacy Software
by Adult Literacy Technology Project
248 Calder Way, Room 307, University Park, PA 16801
(3) Tutor and Computer by Lin Harper and Judy Lipscomb
Hattiesburg Education Literacy Project, Inc.
125 Walnut St., Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

If you have never used computers a word of caution is in order. Practise in advance, and become thoroughly familiar with your hardware and software before you try to use them with your students. Software usually has documentation and instructions, but they vary widely. So try them out in advance. If alternatives are included, try them all. Debug your problems in advance.

These are the programs I am going to demonstrate.

(1) "More Stories 2" reading on Tape Recorder
(2) "Letters and Numerals" on Color Computer 2
(3) "Phonics" by Dorsett Ed. Sys. on Color Computer 2
(4) "Phonics Can Be Easy" by S.C.L.A. on Tape Recorder.

The following list of firms producing educational software is taken largely from the three publications listed above. I am sure there are other firms which I have inadvertantly omitted. Additional program resources are listed in the above publications.

In conclusion, there is one program recommended in all three publications; it is: "Core Reading and Vocabulary Development", an integrated reading and writing program, from Educational Activities, Inc. Its cost is $599. for complete set.

LIST OF SOFTWARE COMPANIES

Apple Computers, 20525 Mariana Av., Cupertino CA 95014
Aquarius People Materials, Box 123, Indian Rocks Beach FL 33535
BLS(Random House), 400 Hahn Rd., Westminster MD 21157
Broderbund Software, 17 Paul Dr., San Rafael CA 94903
CBS Software, One Faucett Pl., Greenwich CT 06836
CUE SoftSwap, Box 271704, Concord CA 94527
Claris, 440 Claude Av., Mountain View CA 94048
Conduit, U. of Iowa Oakdale Campus, Iowa City IA 52242
Creative Curriculum, 15632 Producer La., Huntington Beach CA 92649
Cygnus Software, 3002 E. Culver, Mesa AZ 85207
DLM Teaching Resources, Box 4000, Allen TX 75002
Davidson & Assoc. Inc., 3135 Kashiwa St., Torrance CA 90505
DesignWare, 185 Berry St., San Francisco CA 94107
Dorsett Educ. Systems Inc., Box 1226, Norman OK 73070
Educational Activities Inc., Box 392, Freeport NY 11520
Edutek, Box 11354, Palo Alto CA 94306
Electronic Publishing Co. , 1230 Ave. of Americas, New York NY 10020
Encyc. Britannica Educ. Corp., 425 N. Michigan, Chicago IL 60611
Family & Home-Office Computing, 730 Broadway, New York NY 10003
Gamco Industries Inc., Box 310Y34, Big Spring TX 79721
Grolier Electronic Pub. Co., 95 Madison Av., New York NY 10016
HRM Software, 175 Tompkins Av., Pleasantville NY 10570
Hartley Courseware Inc., Box 419, Dimondale MI.48821
Houghton Mifflin Co. Ed. Software Div., Box 683, Hanover Nh 03755
Instructional Software Inc., 1237 Mass. Av., Cambridge MA 02133
J & S Software, 14 Vander Venter, Port washington NY 11050
Krell Software, 1320 Stony Brook Rd., Stony Brook NY 11790
L & S Software, 1003 Stewart Dr., Sunnyvale CA 94086
Learning Company, 6493 Kaiser Dr., Fremont CA 94555
Lotus Dev. Corp., 161 First St., Cambridge Ma 02142
Magna Systems Inc., West County Line, Barrington IL 60010
Media Materials Inc., 2936 Remington Av., Baltimore MD 21211
Micropro International Corp., 33 San Pable Av., San Rafael CA 94903
Microsoft Corp., Box 97200, Pullman WA 99009
Milliken Publishing Co., Box 21579, St. Louis MO 63132
Mindscape Inc., 3444 Dundee Rd., Northbrook IL 60062
Minn. Educ. Comp. Consor., 3490 Lexington Av. N., St. Paul MN 55126
Oasis Systems, 7907 Ostrow St., San Diego CA 92111
Ombudsman Ed. Services, 1583 N. Milwaukee Av., Libertyville IL 60048
Public Domain Exchange, 2074 C Walsh Av., Santa Clara CA 95050
Queue Inc., 562 Boston Av., Bridgeport CT 06610
Regents, 2 Park Av., New York NY 10016
Remedia Publications, Box 1783, Scottsdale AZ 85252
Scarborough Systems Inc., 25 N. Broadway, Tarrytown NY 10591
Scholastic Inc., 730 Broadway, New York NY 10003
Scholastic Software, Box 7502, Jefferson City MO 65102
Science Research Assoc. Inc., 155 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago IL 60606
Sensible Software Inc., 24011 Seneca, Oak Park MI 48237
Sierra On-Line Inc., Box 485, Coursegold CA 93614
Simon & Schuster, 1230 Ave. of Americas, New York NY 10020
Smart Alex Press, Box 7192, Quincy MA 02169
Spinnaker Software Corp., 1 Kendall Sq., Cambridge MA 02139
Springboard Software, 7807 Creekridge Cir., Minneapolis MN 55435
Steck-Vaughn, Box 2028, Austin TX 78768
Sunburst Communications, 39 Washington Av., Pleasantville NY 10570
Tandy-Radio Shack, One Tandy Center, Fort Worth TX 76102
Unison World, 2150 Shattuck Av., Berkeley CA 94704
Visicorp, 2895 Zanker Rd., San Jose CA 95134
Wadsworth Electronic Pub. Co., 8 Davis Dr., Belmont CA 94002